

THE FRONTLINE

SPORTS & RECREATION

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Winn Army Community Hospital WTB Soldiers Represent Fort Stewart in 2010 Warrior Game

Mindy Anderson
WINN Public Affairs

Approximately 100 Soldiers from the Army, 50 from the Marine Corps, 25 from the Air Force and another 25 from the Coast Guard and Navy participated in the first-ever Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., May 10-14.

The more than 200 service men and women competed in shooting, swimming, archery, track, discus, shot put, cycling, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball at the Olympic Training Center.

Brigadier General Gary Cheek, the Assistant Surgeon General for Warrior Care and Transition, said the point of the Warrior Games is to have a greater impact in the programs we're running across all the military services in the future - to show Soldiers that their lives are defined by their abilities, not their disabilities.

"Challenging physical activity gives Soldiers a sense of accomplishment, personal pride and a reassurance that there is a lot they can do in life," Brig. Gen. Cheek said. "We're already looking ahead to add regional and national Army competitions and training events to capitalize on Warrior Games and increase our adaptive sports and physical activity for all of our warriors in transition. When the flame was

extinguished in Colorado Springs at the end of the games, it left Colorado in the hearts of our Warriors to take back to their comrades."

After a 50-mile bike ride in April 2009 with Ride to Recovery, which takes wounded warriors on a 500-mile, cross-country ride, Cheek helped to conceive the competition with Ride to Recovery's founder and a USO representative.

"These games exceeded all my wildest expectations and accomplished exactly what I wanted," Brig. Gen. Cheek said. "I asked all of our athletes to take the Olympic spirit back with them to their comrades who are also recovering and moving forward and light that spark in them - get their comrades back into life and into physical activity, and other things as well," he said.

WTB Soldiers represent Stewart

Three Soldiers from Winn Army Community Hospital's Warrior Transition Battalion participated in the Warrior Games - Cpl. Ryan Shurtleff, Spc. Christopher Lowe and Staff Sgt. Phillip Fentiman.

Corporal Shurtleff, who medaled twice, receiving a Bronze Medal for Shooting and a Silver Medal as a member of the Army's (Team 3) Sitting Volleyball Team, was injured in an IED blast in the fall of 2009.



Mindy Anderson

Corporal Ryan Shurtleff of Winn Army Community Hospital's Warrior Transition Battalion proudly displays his medals, May 19. Corporal Shurtleff medaled twice during the Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., May 10-14. He received a Bronze Medal for Shooting and a Silver Medal as a member of the Army's (Team 3) Sitting Volleyball Team

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*Aviators show they've got game***Spc. Monica K. Smith**
3rd CAB, Task Force Falcon

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Two Soldiers faced off with only a single basketball to separate them. The Soldier with the basketball made a quick look to his left and immediately the ball flashed across the court to an open team member who then threw the ball into the air, falling into the open net of the basketball hoop.

It was the Talon Classic, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament involving Soldiers of the Task Force Falcon at Bagram Airfield, May 16. The event, created by Sgt. Mark Willard, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, TFFalcon, was designed to bring Soldiers together, away from work, in friendly competition.

"First off, I wanted to have the Talon Classic because we hardly ever have any company sports functions," said Sgt. Willard. "It was a way to bring each section together and think about something other than what's for chow. The overall goal was to build our company's strength and bring us together for some fun under the sun. That goal was met with flying colors."

The tournament began at 8 a.m. at the Fuller Gym basketball courts with games being played on a half court to allow two games to play simultaneously. With six teams competing, the games lasted almost four hours until finally a victor was named, the Soldiers of the personnel shop, plus Spc. Jonathan Wesley of the HHC, 3rd CAB supply shop.

"It felt great to win because we get bragging rights within the unit," said Sgt. Edward Wilson, HHC, 3rd CAB. "Being [Soldiers in the personnel shop] everyone thinks all we do is push papers and that we're not athletic. But we showed who we were on the court - well us plus one from the supply office."

After realizing the popularity of the basketball court, a second 3-on-3 basketball tournament was scheduled at Bagram Airfield for May 30, where 16 teams will compete for a prize yet to be determined.

"I had so many requests to join our tournament that I had to get another one together for the rest of the brigade to play in," said Sgt. Willard. "[This] was the first of many more Talon Classic's that we will have before we return home."



Spc. Monica K. Smith

Staff Sergeant Ronald Mitchell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Falcon, dribbles around the defense during the Talon Classic, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament involving Soldiers of the Task Force Falcon, May 16 at Bagram Airfield.

*Hilton Head golfing community donates clubs, golf balls to deploying troops***Bob Mathews**
Family and MWR Marketing Publicity Specialist

Nine golf balls rested on tees in front of golf clubs leaning up against a rack at the Taylors Creek Golf Course clubhouse, May 20.

But that was just for a photo opportunity. The reason for this occasion was close by.

In the bed of a truck parked a few feet away were boxes containing 700 golf clubs and about 9,000 golf balls, a gift from residents of the Belfair golfing community near Hilton Head Island, S.C., to members of the soon-to-deploy 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Plans have already been discussed about how to put the gift to good use.

"We all know that on deployment, things can be a little tense," said 4th IBCT Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph D. Altman. "We'll be taking a lot of this on deployment with us and possibly setting up a driving range to give the Soldiers another means to release the stress and relax a little bit when the time allows."

The catalyst behind the gift is Doug Coupe, a resident of Belfair who was described by Retired Army Col. Pete Condon as a "patriotic American." Condon was on hand for the presentation of the clubs and balls, as were sergeants major representing the various units of the 4th IBCT.

Condon said the community collected the equipment in four to six weeks. "Everybody in the community wanted to jump on board and help out as they

could," Condon said.

PGA Professional Tommie McArthur, Director of Golf for Fort Stewart/Hunter, called the effort by the Belfair community on behalf of the Soldiers, "Wonderful. We appreciate what they did, and from the expression on the faces of the sergeants major, there's no doubt they appreciate it, too."

He said plans are to keep some golf sets here and to use them to introduce some "true beginners" to the game of golf.

Altman said, "It is a great feeling and a great honor to have people from the local community that are willing to support the troops in this manner. It is a great feeling as an American and as a Soldier to know that we've got the support of our country behind us."

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Due to injuries sustained to his right hand, the right-handed Cpl. Shurtleff was unable to hold a weapon with his left hand, so three weeks prior to the shooting competition, he went to Fort Benning, Ga. to train and learned how to shoot left-handed.

“This was awesome. I want to go back next year and compete again. I want to compete for as long as I

can,” he said. “Seeing the single, double and some triple amputees giving their all and having a good time competing was great.”

Specialist Lowe placed 7th in Shooting, and Staff Sgt. Fentimen, who walked away with fourth place honors in swimming, said he is already looking forward to competing in next year’s games.

“I am especially proud of (Staff Sgt.) Fentimen,” said Sgt. 1st Class Roderick White, cadre, WTB. “They all have a lot to be proud of, but I believe (Staff Sgt.) Fentimen would have won multiple medals in swimming if he’d had more time to train for the games. With his age and taking into consideration that he had open heart surgery recently, placing fourth is not too bad.”

Lieutenant Colonel Bill Reitemeyer, commander, WTB, said these Soldiers are an inspiration to many.

“Their participation and success during the Warrior Games reflects the highest level of Warrior Pride,” Lt. Col. Reitemeyer said. “Because of their level of desire, they were able to overcome any limitations to achieve greatness.”

Stewart Garrison Scramble played under blue sky



Leigh Dorr

Julie Herrmann, Director of Emergency Services, prepares to putt during the Garrison Golf Scramble, May 21.

Leigh Dorr
Special to The Frontline

Beautiful blue skies provided the perfect back drop for this month’s Garrison Commander’s Golf Scramble at Taylor’s Creek Golf Course. Seventeen teams hit the links on Friday for an afternoon of team-building and fun.

“We like to go by the philosophy, ‘Work hard, play hard,’ said Tommie McArthur, Taylor’s Creek Golf Course general manager. “Coming out here is a chance to play hard.”

1st Place - 61
Sgt. Josh Gracia
Sgt. 1st Class Lee Fraiser
John Ferell
Jimmy Cooper

2nd Place - 62 DPTMS
Scott Armbrister
Ken Armbrister
Master Sgt. Steve Williams

Willie Jones
3rd Place - 62 DOL
Royce Kennedy
Darrick Taylor
Henry Thompson
Ron Wood

4th Place - 63 DES
Sgt. Major Max Brown
Julie Herrmann
Master Sgt. Ray Laverenz
Master Sgt. Rodney Hargus

5th Place - 63
Col. Phil Patridge
Maj. Justin Burdlemay
Col. Lee Covington
Maj. Chris Blount

Closest to the Pin - #11 - Henry Thompson

The next Garrison Commander Scramble at Fort Stewart is June 25. It’s also a 4-person scramble.